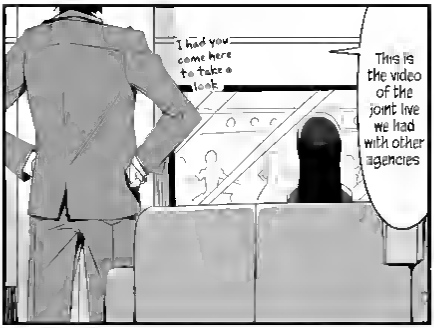
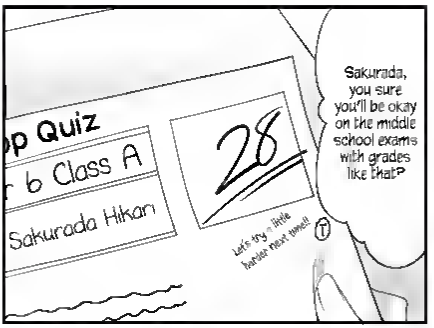
vol.19 "Secret Idol"



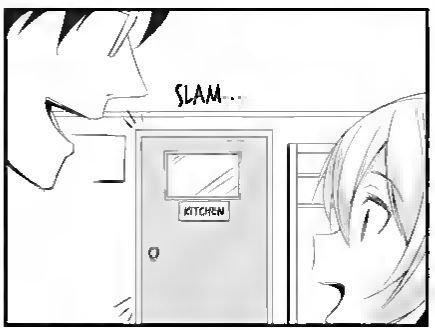
※P = Producer

Oh, Saku-raba-chan, good work to you, too
Thanks for all the work!
Middle school mode!
Hikari's Entertainment Agency


p Quiz
6 Class A
Sakurada Hikari
28
Let's try a little harder next time!!
Sakurada, you sure you'll be okay on the middle school exams with grades like that?

I'll pour you some tea!
Matsuoka-san!
Good work, Light
Not at all
Sorry for making you come when you're so busy

I'm actually busy with my idol work, though.
Getting mixed up with the princess sure is scary!
OH, BE QUIET! HIKARI'S JUST BUSY WITH A LOT OF THINGS AT HOME!


SLAM...
KITCHEN

I'M FINE I'M FINE
The boys are just a bunch of B.B. jerks
Don't let them get to you, Hikari

I feel kind of grossed out BY YOU, THAT IS.
Please treat me like you always do
CROUCH
How are you feeling after the live concert, HIKARI-SAMA?

THAT'S LIKE ALL OF IT!! SO COOL!!
AFTER ALL, I'M ONLY 90 PERCENT SERIOUS RIGHT NOW!

It's been bugging me for a while,
But why are you also in charge of being Sakuraba-chan's producer, Matsuoka-san?
We have enough staff here
Aren't you supposed to treat me as the idol, "Sakuraba Light" at work, even if it's just us two?
Sorry, I can't help it when I think about who you are...
pout
Please switch with me!
Well, she's in a very critical period right now so I want to watch over her directly
Sorry for the wait.
.....
Ehhh.
Having someone else managing her schedule means we'd have to reveal that she's from the royal family, after all!
You know, Sakuraba-chan really resembles Hikari-sama from the royal family
That's not true at all!!
WH WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU SAYING? LIGHT IS FAR MORE CHARMING SEE!!
YOU LOLI-CON!
I AM NOT!
OH! WAIT! I MEAN, HIKARI-SAMA IS JUST AS WONDERFUL IN HER OWN WAY AS WELL, YES!!!!
Why are you so flustered?
Ahaha

It's not a big deal if the world finds out who I am, anyway
Joking aside,
That isn't funny.

Okay, I'm going to go pick up Sacchan

If we sell you as "Sakuraba Light, the new idol" instead of "Sakurada Hikari of the royal family," there'll be a bigger impact when it comes to gaining new fans
You're aiming to win the election, aren't you?

You're not affecting your personal life by transforming so often, are you?
SLAM
—I thought your identity was going to be exposed, Light

If the popular selling idol is suddenly revealed to be the princess of the country, the amount of attention you'd receive would be staggering
That makes sense.
And then, we can plan the timing and reveal your true identity!

Hmm, well, my power has leveled up, so I can transform whenever I want most of the time, so I haven't had any problems
RP

So to shoot the general, you have to do THAT?
NO
IF A DOG LEARNS TO WALK, THEN—
NO.

I'LL SHORTEN MY LIFE SPAN IF I OVERUSE IT, THOUGH.
EHHHHHHH!?

I'm not saying you need to be perfect at everything.
Anyway, let's start reviewing the joint live we had the other day
If anything, I believe idols should be imperfect.
Without Sachiko, our poster girl, it was so-so at best...
We're back.
KERCHAK
Even if you have some problematic areas, by trying your best, your fans will show their support and—
What you need to do is to work a little more on your basics.
CRUNCH
You have the habit of relying too much on your talent.
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME.
SAC-CHAN!!
FOR THE TIME BEING, PUT DOWN THAT RICE CRACKER.
Why do I need to take middle school entrance exams when I'm in an affiliated school?
I CAN'T HELF IT, I'M SHO BUSHY WIF MY SHTU-DYSH...

Why is she holding my hand?
Today, I have something important to discuss with you two.
SQUEEZE

High Five!
SACCHAN YAAAAY!

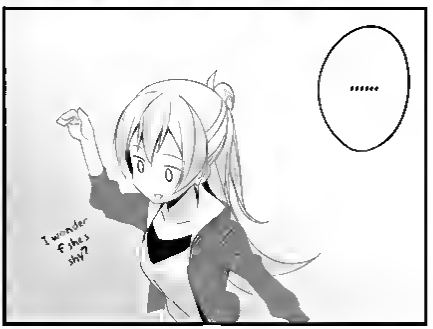
And now, Light is at a critical period in her career and I want to bring her up in one go
Sachiko has solidified her popularity as our poster girl

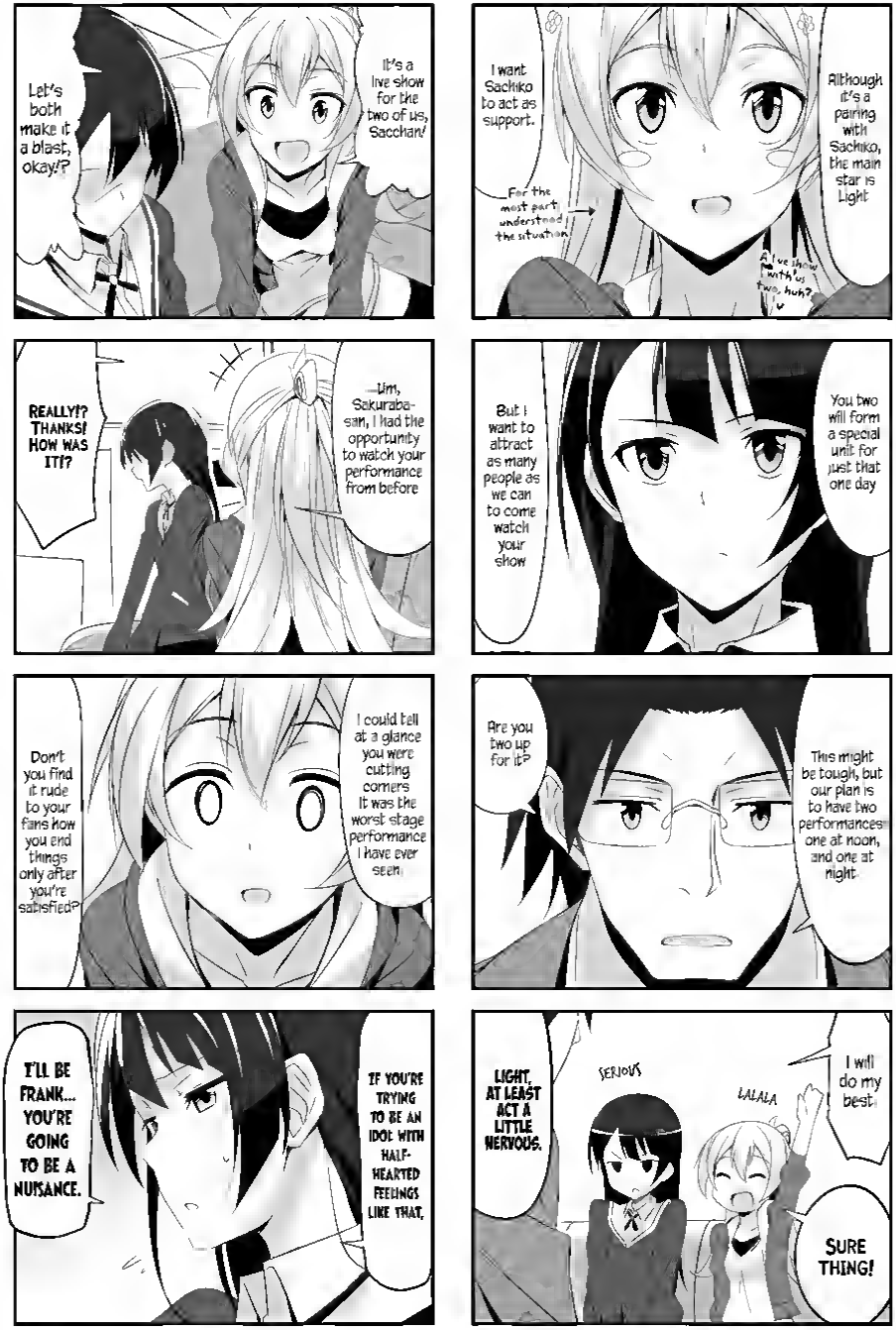
Thank you for your work, Sakuraba-san

Excuse me for the strange wording, but to sell Light, we decided to have Sachiko stick with Light as a pair,
And hold a twin live concert
!?

IGNORE
STEP
STEP

NO.
WHAP
YOU'RE WRONG!
So I'll be hugging Sacchan?


.....
I wonder if she's shy?


Let's both make it a blast, okay!?
It's a live show for the two of us, Sacchan!
I want Sachiko to act as support.
For the most part understood the situation.
Although it's a pairing with Sachiko, the main star is Light
I've always wanted us two, huh?
REALLY!? THANKS! HOW WAS IT!?
—Um, Sakuraba-san, I had the opportunity to watch your performance from before
But I want to attract as many people as we can to come watch your show
You two will form a special unit for just that one day
Don't you find it rude to your fans how you end things only after you're satisfied?
I could tell at a glance you were cutting corners It was the worst stage performance I have ever seen
Are you two up for it?
This might be tough, but our plan is to have two performances one at noon, and one at night
I'LL BE FRANK... YOU'RE GOING TO BE A NUISANCE.
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO BE AN IDOL WITH HALF-HEARTED FEELINGS LIKE THAT,
LIGHT, AT LEAST ACT A LITTLE NERVOUS.
SERIOUS
LALALA
I will do my best!
SURE THING!

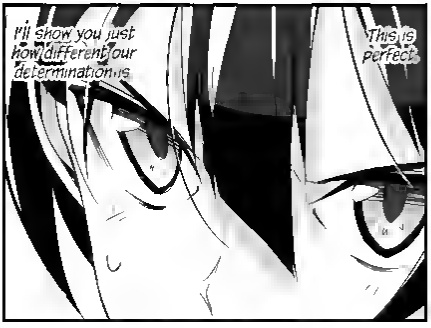
BTU SHD DSNT LK MAYOE
I have no idea what you are saying
SACCHAN DOESN'T LIKE ME ANYMORE
You can make up with her

R-Right...
SH
I will make sure to do my part in the twin live concert
...I will be on my way to my lessons now

Through sheer effort alone, she climbed to the top without any special connections or outstanding talent.
And this is while keeping her grades up in school
...Sachiko has been unknown for a long time.

No matter how talented you may be, succeeding without any effort is just absurd

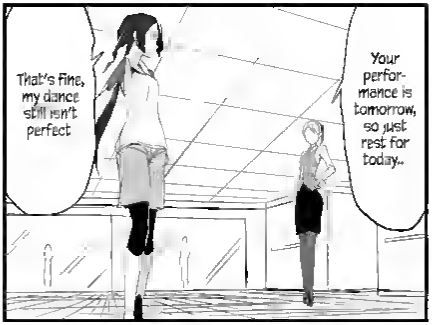
That just goes to show how serious she is about being an idol


I'll show you just how different our determination is
This is perfect

...YEAH!
Do your best so you don't fall behind, Light

FWIP
FWIP
FWIP

Thank you for your hard work!
Thank you for your hard work
Let's end it here for today
PEEK
M-Me too!
I'm going to continue practicing on my own.
Ohhh!
Pop Quiz
Year 6 Class A
Sakurada Hikari
96
You did very well!!
And stop there!
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
AND SO, THE DAYS PASSED ONE AFTER THE OTHER.
Oh hey, Sakurada, you can do it if you try
AND IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, IT WAS THE DAY BEFORE THE LIVE CONCERT
Okay, now for the finish!
HIKARI, YOU'RE SO COOL!
HEH, THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I GET SERIOUS.

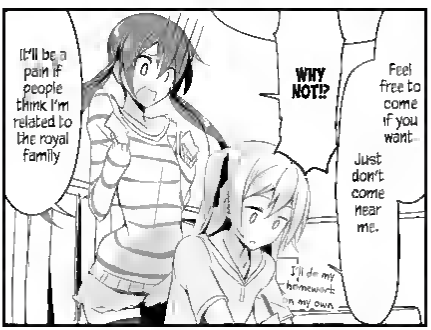

That's fine, my dance still isn't perfect
Your performance is tomorrow, so just rest for today..

H HEY HIKARI
Sacchan hasn't said a thing to me since then...

Good grief...
I need to work more than Sakurabe-san or else...

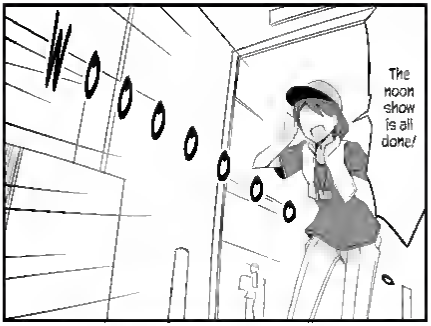
ALSO MAYBE YOU COULD INTRODUCE SACCHAN TO ME TOO OR SOMETHING
I'll help you with your homework
COULD I GET AN INVITE TO YOUR SHOW?

Yes! Thank you every time!
I'll take you home at 9, okay?

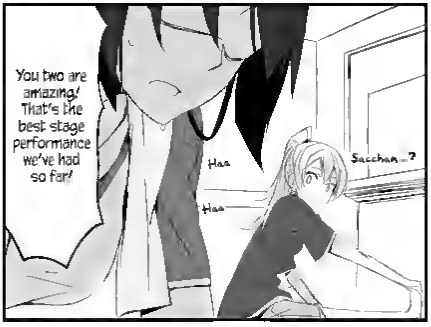

It'll be a pain if people think I'm related to the royal family
WHY NOT!?
Feel free to come if you want. Just don't come near me.
I'll do my homework on my own.

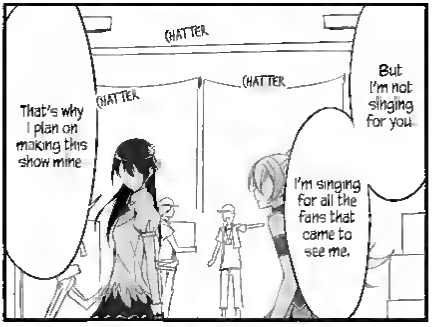
Can overcome talent.
I'm going to show that hard work.

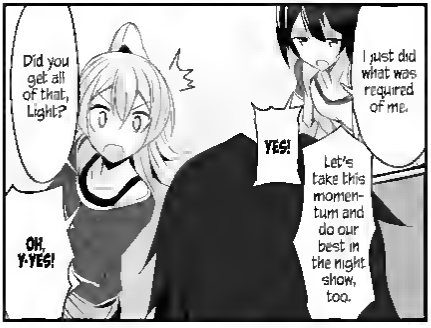
If I can do that, then Sacchan will like it, too!
Can you get me her autograph at least!?
I don't care if I fail. I'm going to do what I can to enjoy the live with everyone.


WOOOO
The noon show is all done!

THE DAY OF THE LIVE
Sakuraba-san
Today's show is meant to sell you.
So I won't get in your way.


You two are amazing! That's the best stage performance we've had so far!
Haa
Haa
Saccharin...?


CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
That's why I plan on making this show mine.
But I'm not singing for you.
I'm singing for all the fans that came to see me.


Did you get all of that, Light?
I just did what was required of me.
YES!
Let's take this momentum and do our best in the night show, too.
OH, Y-YES!

LET'S DO ALL WE CAN TO MAKE IT THE BEST SHOW EVER!
YEAH! I'LL DO MY BEST, TOO!

Were you even listening?
NO, I WASN'T!
HOW HONEST!!

It makes me look like an idiot.
...She really takes me out of it.

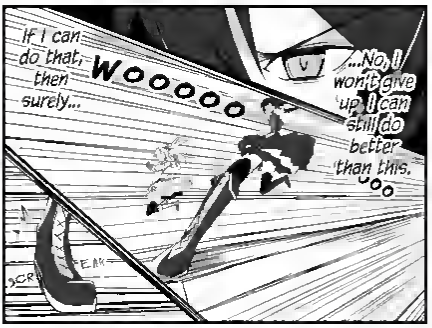
Are you okay!? Sacchan!
Sacchan!!
Going any further might be too hard on you..
I'm fine

Two shows in one day really is tough...
NIGHT SHOW
Woooooooo

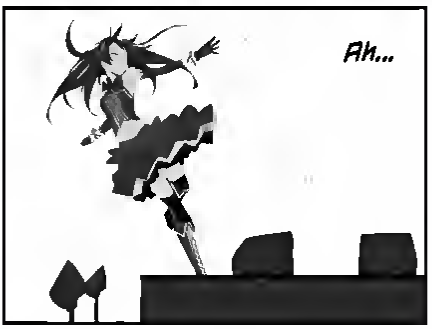
I can still do it, I can bear with it
So please let me keep going
You've done more than enough, your fans will understand

I wonder if I'm no match for raw talent after all...
She's been trying her best, too...
Sakuraba-san still looks so energetic...
Oooo

Sacchan
Light, I don't mind if you ad-lib your dance according to the song.


If I can do that, then surely...
Wooooo
...No, I won't give up. I can still do better than this.
Ooo

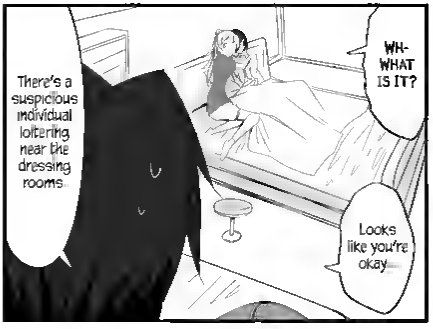
Can you finish the rest on your own?
...YES!


Ah...

...I know it's weird for me to say this,
But I don't think idols need to be all that perfect
That ends today's public event!
Wow, it's great that you ended up with only a light sprain, Sacchan
Everyone knows that you've been trying the best you can, Sacchan
If you mess up, then you just have to watch out next time
I'm sorry for saying those horrible things to you before...
I got so worked up that I pushed myself and ended up causing problems for your concert.
What's important is whether you're able to do all you can to get something done until the end.
Right?
I don't have the right to criticize you in the least...
SQUEEZE
OH NO! IT'S TRUE THAT I WAS KIND OF TAKING IT EASY TOO...!
At least,
That's what Matsuoka-san said.
.....
.....

RATTLE
ARE YOU TWO THERE!?
Let's rise to the top of the idol world together, okay!?
Wait, please st...

Even though she was told all those things and the situation turned out this way, she's still trying to cheer me up...
Sakuraba-san, thank you I really misjudged you...


There's a suspicious individual loitering near the dressing rooms.
WH-WHAT IS IT?
Looks like you're okay...

UM. SO... YOU SEE I MAY SOUND IMPUDENT FOR ASKING THIS
BUT AS GOOD RIVALS FROM NOW ON

It looks like the staff lost track of her, you see...
.....
It's supposedly a small-sized girl, but she seems to have some incredible power as if it allows her to be unaffected by gravity

Sac... chan...!
COULD WE GET ALONG AS GOOD FRIENDS ?

Akane-chan...!!
You've got it wrong!
I'm sorry!
I'm just very, very...!!

HUH!? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO!?
JU
Sure!
Now come over here!
MP